FOR RELEASE: May 1, 2003

CONTACT: Dick Wadhams (202) 224-6207 John Wood (202) 224-5946

ALLARD COMMENTS ON STATUS OF IRAQ WAR HEAVY COMBAT APPEARS TO BE OVER

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, released the following statement regarding the current announcement by President Bush that the military phase of operation Iraqi Freedom has been completed.

"I commend President Bush for his leadership, he was steadfast and determined, even through challenging times. His leadership as commander-in-chief was pivotal in this victory for freedom," said Allard. "The Iraqi people will now have the opportunity to enjoy democracy. The freedom to vote, to protest, and to speak one's mind will lead to a stronger, more stable Iraq in the long-term.

"The Iraqi conflict is far from over, the job of keeping the peace and building a stable democratic government has only begun," added Allard. "I anticipate many challenges still lie ahead as our mission to assist the Iraqi people in the development of a representative government remains unfinished but I have the utmost faith that the coalition will continue to progress at what has been an unprecedented pace," concluded Allard.